

# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/612,475 07/02/2003		Charles Peter deCler	1945.185US01	3132
23552 75	590 09/10/2004		EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC		DUNWOODY, AARON M		
P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	,		3679	
			DATE MAIL ED: 00/10/2004	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Eaterlands of time may be available under the processor of 37 CFR 1.135(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed  Eaterlands of time may be available under the processor of 37 CFR 1.135(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed  If the period for reply specified above is less than thin'y (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thin'y (30) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is less than thin'y (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thin'y (30) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is less than thin'y (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thin'y (30) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above, the maximum statutory period will dappy and will explicit (30) (40) (50) (50) (50) (50) (50) (50) (50) (5							
### Examiner	<u></u>	Application No.	Applicant(s)				
Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  If the period for reply specified above is last site with with the correspondence address  after Sta (S) MONTH's from the mailing date of this communication.  If the period for reply specified above is last site with thit (20) days, a reply whith the statutory entirement of thisty (20) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is last site with the considered time of the specified in the second tendency and the statutory entirement of thisty (20) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is last site in this (20) days, a reply veible the statutory entirement of thisty (20) days will be considered timely.  If the period for reply specified above is last site in this period to the communication.  If the period for reply specified above is last site in this period to the specified to be considered timely.  If all the period for reply specified above is last site in the mailing date of this communication.  A present of the specified above is last site in the mailing date of this communication, even if inmely filed, may reduce any search period to the communication.  If the period for reply specified to its intention and the specified above any search period to the mailing date of the constitution and search period to the search period to the mailing date of the search period to the s	Office Action Summary	10/612,475					
The MALING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address — Period for Reply  A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  THE MALING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  **Enterstood color may be available under the provisions of 3°CR 1.13(b), in no avoid, however, may a reply to timely filled the provision of the provisions of 3°CR 1.13(b), in no avoid, however, may a reply to timely filled the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30 days, are ply villable the statutory relieved as given with the statutory relieved as given with the statutory relieved as given with 10 period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30 days, are ply villable the statutory relieved and the communication of thirty (30 days will be centified into a statutory and the statutory relieved to the Mother than the statutory relieved and the statutory and the statutory relieved and the statutory and the statutory relieved to the Mother than the statutory relieved and the statutory relieved to the following and the statutory relieved to the statutory relieved to the communication of the statutory relieved to the statutory of the statutory relieved.  1) □ Responsive to communication (s) filed on 12 August 2004.  2a) □ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☑ This action is non-final.  3) □ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is dosed in accordance with the practice under Exparte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) □ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.  4) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  6) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  6) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  6) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  7) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  8) □ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are allowed.  10 □	Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit				
A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MALINO DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  - and REPLY (1) MONTHS from the maline date of the process	The MAN INC DATE of this communication						
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.  Estanciano citize many be available under the provisions of 30°CFR 1.39(a). In no event, however, may a nephy be timely filed after SIX (5) MCNTHS from the mailing date of this communication. If the period citizen may be available under the provisions of 30°CFR 1.39(a) and the set of extended pariod for reply well, by administration of this cytizen the mailing date of this communication. Failure to explication the set or extended pariod for reply well, by administration of the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seamed patient term adjustment. See 37°CFR 1.784(b).  Status  1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2004. 2a) This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is reflected the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seamed patient term adjustment. See 37°CFR 1.784(b).  This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is reflected to the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any seamed patient term adjustment. See 37°CFR 1.784(b).  This action is FINAL.  2b) This action is reflected to the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 c.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1.15 is/are pending in the application.  4a) Of the above claim(s) 11.15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5 Claim(s)	The MAILING DATE of this communication ap Period for Reply	ppears on the cover sneet with the	correspondence address				
1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 August 2004.  2a	<ul> <li>THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.</li> <li>Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.</li> <li>If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.</li> <li>Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any</li> </ul>						
2a)  This action is FINAL. 2b)  This action is non-final.  3  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4)  Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5)  Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6)  Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected. 7)  Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8)  Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10)  The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some c) None of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Altachment(s) 1) Notice of Dratsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 9) Other:	Status						
3 Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected. 7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 8) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner. 10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner. Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d). 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). a) All b) Some Ollowore of: 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s) 11 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) Signaturements (PTO-1413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2022/2003.	1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12	August 2004.					
closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.  Disposition of Claims  4)  Claim(s) 1-15 Is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration. 5)  Claim(s)	2a) This action is <b>FINAL</b> . 2b) ⊠ Th	is action is non-final.					
Al)							
4) Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application. 4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5) Claim(s) is/are allowed. 6) Claim(s) is/are rejected.  7) Claim(s) is/are objected to. 3) Claim(s) are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.  Application Papers  9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) Other:	·	Ex parte Quayle, 1933 C.D. 11, 4	33 O.G. 213.				
4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdrawn from consideration.  5)	<u> </u>						
9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  10) The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) Other:	<ul> <li>4a) Of the above claim(s) 11-15 is/are withdra</li> <li>5) ☐ Claim(s) is/are allowed.</li> <li>6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.</li> <li>7) ☐ Claim(s) is/are objected to.</li> </ul>	awn from consideration.					
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.  5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) ☐ Other:	Application Papers						
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.  4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date	9) The specification is objected to by the Examir	ner.					
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2203.  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) Other:	10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.						
11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.  Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119  12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No.  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.  5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  6) Other:							
12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  1) ☑ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  3) ☑ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.  6) ☐ Other:							
a) All b) Some * c) None of:  1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No  3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.  Attachment(s)  Attachment	Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119						
1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003. 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) Other:	<ul> <li>a) All b) Some * c) None of:</li> <li>1. Certified copies of the priority documents</li> <li>2. Certified copies of the priority documents</li> <li>3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority application from the International Bure</li> </ul>	nts have been received. nts have been received in Applica onty documents have been receiv au (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).	tion No ved in this National Stage				
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003. Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003. Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003. Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/22/2003.	Attachment(s)						
	Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/22/2003</u> .	Paper No(s)/Mail D  5) Notice of Informal	Date				

## **DETAILED ACTION**

#### Election/Restrictions

Claims 11-15 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on 8/12/2004.

## Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement (IDS) filed 9/22/2003 is being considered by the examiner.

# Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by US patent 4963201, Carstens.

In regards to claim 1, Carstens discloses a coupler device for fluid transport, comprising:

a body (32) including an outer surface being a circumferential outer sidewall, the outer sidewall having a first end and a second end with an opening extending through the first and second ends, the body defining a slot disposed proximate one of the first

end or second end, the slot extending in a direction transverse to the opening and through the outer sidewall;

a latch assembly (92, 90) including at least one outer member being disposed on the body externally exposed of the outer surface and connected with an inner member being disposed through the slot, the outer member protruding from the outer surface and reciprocates with respect to the outer sidewall, the inner member reciprocates within the slot and having an aperture corresponding with the opening, whereby the body being releasably connectable with a piece of fluid transport equipment through the inner member; and

an overmold portion (14) formed about the outer sidewall of the body, the overmold portion including a shroud portion partially covering the outer member of the latch assembly, the shroud portion being a protruded structure extending outward from the outer sidewall.

In regards claim 2, Carstens discloses the body including a connection means disposed at one of the first or second ends opposite the slot, whereby the connection means being connectable to a fluid transport system.

In regards claim 3, Carstens discloses the connection means being a groove residing between the outer sidewall and the opening, the groove being a socket fitting.

In regards claim 4, Carstens discloses a part of the outer surface of the body having a recessed face disposed about the slot and extending in a direction along the outer surface toward the first and second ends.

In regards claim 5, Carstens discloses the recessed face being substantially planar, the recessed face being engageable with a portion of the outer member, the portion reciprocates with respect to the recessed face and over the slot.

In regards claim 6, Carstens discloses the opening of the body substantially being radially symmetrical.

In regards claim 7, Carstens discloses the body is constructed of a molded material, the molded material being more rigid than the overmold portion.

In regards claim 8, Carstens discloses the outer member of the latch assembly including an actuating member, a biasing member and a retaining member, the actuating member and the retaining member being connected at oppositely disposed ends of the inner member and outside the slot, and the biasing member being between the actuating member and the inner member, the biasing member being disposed on the outer surface over the slot and enabling the actuating member and retaining member to reciprocate with respect to the outer surface.

In regards claim 9, Carstens discloses the shroud portion of the overmold portion being a wall adjacent and around the outer member of the latch assembly, the wall extending in a direction transverse to the outer surface.

In regards claim 10, Carstens discloses the wall protrudes a distance being at least the same as a distance the outer member protrudes from the outer surface.

Application/Control Number: 10/612,475 Page 5

Art Unit: 3679

### Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure because it illustrates the inventive concept of the invention.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M Dunwoody whose telephone number is 703-306-3436. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P Stodola can be reached on 703-306-5771. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

.amd

Aaron Dunwoody
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 3670